GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3249
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2014
SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF WOMEN EMPLOYEES
Puttaraju Shri C.S.

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has noticed that several women employees of Prasar Bharti have levelled sexual harassment charges against senior Doordarshan/AIR officials;

(b) if so, the details of sexual harassment reported during the last three years, case-wise;

(c) whether National Commission for Women (NCW) reported/pointed out the lack of a redressal mechanism for sexual harassment complaints in Prasar Bharti; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (RETD.))

(a) and (b): Prasar Bharati has informed that a total of 7 complaints of sexual harassment were reported during the preceding three years in Prasar Bharati. They have further informed that out of these, 3 cases have been closed with suitable action, whereas the other 4 cases are at different stages.

(c) & (d): Prasar Bharati has intimated that the National Commission for Women (NCW) has pointed out following certain deficiencies in the existing mechanism for dealing with sexual harassment cases in Directorate General: Doordarshan:

(i) The nomenclature Women's Cell was not as per Supreme Court Guidelines, as it should be Internal Complaints Committee.

(ii) Services of a Special Counsellor or other Support Services were not in place, and

(iii) The existence of Women's Cell (Internal Complaints Committee) was not displayed in the office premises.

Prasar Bharati has informed that they have taken the following actions on the recommendations of NCW:

(i) The nomenclature of Women's Cell has been re-christened to Internal Complaints Committee as per Supreme Court guidelines.

(ii) A lady officer of the level of Deputy Director General has been nominated as Special Counsellor.

(iii) The existence of Internal Complaints Committee for redressal of prevention of sexual harassment of women employees at workplace has been displayed in the office premises of DG: Doordarshan and Doordarshan Kendra, Delhi. The field units of Doordarshan have also been directed to comply with the same.